

The airwaves used to be part of the public commons. The fact that they have, for the most part, been auctioned off to highest bidder is one of the most a dangerous threats to our democracy.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

We need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Let's keep the legal entities called corporations serving the public good and not enslaving it.

Thank you.